NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

70 Years
"A Partner in Conservation Since 1935"

Phone: (651) 602-7900
FAX: (651) 602-7914

Transmitted via Email

July 25, 2005

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-5-54

SUBJECT: LTP – CSP – APPROVING APPLICATIONS

Purpose: To inform employees in 2005 CSP watersheds of the national approval process for applications.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2005

Earlier today the Secretary of Agriculture announced that over 12,000 applications will be accepted for enrollment into the 2005 Conservation Security Program (CSP). On Thursday, July 28th, Merlin Bartz, Regional Assistant Chief of NRCS, will be making a formal CSP approval announcement at a signing ceremony outside Sauk Center. Until the Thursday announcement field staff should not release CSP approval numbers to the media. Please direct all requests for information on CSP approvals to Julie MacSwain, Public Affairs Specialist.

Effective today field staff can begin the process of approving CSP contracts by obtaining landowner signatures for applications in Categories A, B, and C1. Applications from other categories are not being approved at this time. The national office has drafted landowner notification letters (for approval and denial) which have been placed into ProTracts. Field staff can use these letters to notify landowners of their program status but need to double check that approvals are only in the categories specified.

After contracts are approved we will immediately begin to issue payments. Attached is a short power point developed by the national office to help explain the next steps of this process. Later this week we will distribute a step by step list of instructions to make CSP payments.

Leah Duzy, CSP Coordinator, will begin to move CSP F/A funds into county accounts allowing payments to occur; direct all questions on the 2005 CSP approval process to her.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: ASTC (FO)
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